

COMPACT ROTATING STAGE

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5 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A compact stage includes a rotary driver and a vertical linear driver that are in the same horizontal plane, which advantageously reduces the height of the device. The stage may include a rotating shaft to which a chuck is mounted. A rotary drive, which may be an annular rotary drive, is coupled to and rotates the rotating shaft. A linear drive is also coupled to the rotating shaft and in one embodiment extends through the center of the annular rotary drive. The linear drive moves the rotating shaft along a vertical axis. The linear drive may be, e.g., a voice coil motor that uses a spring to bias the rotating shaft along the vertical axis.